

MetLife Afterschool Training Proposal

Applicant contact information and co-trainers:

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Historical Description on Local Afterschool Partnerships, Training Needs, Partners

Jackson County 4-H has partnered with the Black River Falls school district BLAST program for three years at Gebhardt Elementary school. Over this period of time the structure of the enrichment (4-H) time, curriculum, and leadership have been refined to the current model. After one hour of homework time, students gather in their 4-H home clubs or project clubs for an hour of educational programming using the resources of UW-Extension. Each club completes a service learning project using the Public Adventures curriculum as a guide. This program has been operated with a 21CLC grant, and those funds will end this year. The district is currently working on securing funding for the coordinator position and some additional staff to continue to provide this program to students. Jackson County 4-H contributes through the work of an AmeriCorps at the site, providing curriculum and training funds, and some program supplies. These funds are made available through targeted funds from the 4-H executive board for 4-H outreach programming.

It is the goal of UW-Extension to continue to partner with the BLAST program and aid in its sustainability, as well as to expand our resources and programming to other school and community sites.

Current training needs include:

- skill development in high school youth leaders to manage student groups and use Extension 4-H curriculum to lead meaningful educational activities
- increasing the knowledge of other current and potential afterschool providers with the resources and potential partnerships with UW-Extension.

Partners:

- Current partners:
 - Monica Lobenstein, School-Community Partnership Coordinator (and BLAST coordinator)
 - Shelly Severson, Principal, Gebhardt Elementary
- The following potential partners have expressed interest in working with UW-Extension on afterschool programming:
 - Todd Anthony, Lincoln Elementary in the Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan school district

- Dave Roou, Principal, Black River Falls Middle School
- Judy Hansen, Board of Directors, Boys & Girls Club of Jackson County

Training Plan:

Objectives:

- Potential afterschool partners will have knowledge of UW-Extension 4-H resources and utilize Extension as a resource in their schools and organizations
- A plan for providing educational programming to youth afterschool will be developed for at least one new afterschool site
- High school teen leaders will develop the skills to effectively lead service learning projects and project meetings with afterschool students

Evaluation plan:

- Contacts made by school and community partners to UW-Extension seeking information and resources will be logged to serve as an indicator as to whether or not potential partners utilize Extension more following training.
- The existence of a written plan for expanding afterschool partnerships.
- A written evaluation at the conclusion of training to document youth leader knowledge before and after training.
- Observation of youth leaders in their roles to assess their understanding of Public Adventures and the service learning process, and their ability to use the experiential learning model.

Training outline:

- Session 1 (2 hr, target audience: prospective partner leadership)
Introduction—How this training opportunity came to be
Overview of BRF Schools/UW-Ex Partnership—What has fed the success of this partnership
Partners' Needs and Resources
- Session 2 (2 hr, target audience: prospective partner leadership)
What UW-Ex Has to Offer
Experiential Learning—Experiencing the 4-H Public Adventures and 4-H After School Curricula
- Session 3 (2 hr, target audience: prospective partner leadership)
Vision for Future Partnerships in Afterschool Programming
- Session 4 (2-4 hr, target audience: faculty and staff of Black River Falls and Alma Center/Humbird/Merrillan schools)
Experiential learning and service-learning—Using the 4-H Public Adventures Curriculum
- Session 5 (2-6 hr, target audience: youth partners from BLAST after-school program)
Youth-Adult Partnerships
Experiential Learning—4-H Afterschool Curriculum
Implementing Service-Learning—4-H Public Adventures Curriculum

Strategy to reach ten afterschool providers:

- Because two of our potential partners have already contacted Extension during the recent 21CLC application process, we will begin with personal contact to them to participate in training.
- The Boys and Girls Club is also in great need of resources and Extension has a good relationship with this organization.
- Teen leaders are hired annually through the Black River Falls school district.

Supporting WAN Guiding Principles and Four Essential Elements of 4-H

The training plan is designed to relate to prospective after-school program partners how building strong partnerships among after-school providers and UW-Ex will promote positive youth development through the use of academic enrichment opportunities based on quality resources and making 4-H programs accessible to underserved populations in Jackson County.

The success of the current BLAST after-school program partnership involving the Black River Falls school district and UW-Ex rests on several key factors: strong leadership and program management in both organizations; building trusting relationships among school administration and staff, UW-Ex, the community, families, and students; employment of well-prepared youth and adult staff who are committed to meeting the needs of the students; the evolution of a well-rounded program which includes a nutritious snack, nutrition education, homework assistance, licensed teachers on site, and diverse program areas; commitment to fostering youth engagement in the community through creating a sense of belonging through club membership, mastery of academic skills and the opportunity to explore projects of personal interest, promoting the ability to be self-directed and contributing members through service-learning; and continuous informal evaluation and improvement by staff (including review of academic progress reports) and annual formal evaluation of program outcomes and improvements. The proposed training plan seeks to convey these important factors to participants and invite them to vision how they might create their own successful partnerships with UW-Ex and with other community partners.

Proposed Timeline

June 2007

- Session 1: Introduction to After-School Partnerships

July 2007

- Session 2: Experiential Learning

August 2007

- Session 3: Visioning
- Session 4: Faculty Staff Development

September 2007

- Session 5: Youth Staff Training

Budget

Sessions 1-3:

- Public Adventures Adventure Kit (1 per organization) $\$10.00 \times 3 = \30.00
- Individual participants' materials $\$7.00 \times 10 = \70.00
- Refreshments $\$25.00 \times 3 \text{ sessions} = \75.00

Session 4:

- Participant materials $\$5.00 \times 30 \text{ participants} = \150.00
- Refreshments $\$10.00 \times 2 \text{ sessions} = \20.00

Session 5:

- Participant materials $\$5.00 \times 6 \text{ participants} = \30.00
- Public Adventures Adventure Kit (1 per BLAST 4-H club) $\$10.00 \times 3 \text{ clubs} = \30.00
- Refreshments: $\$60.00$ (lunch plus breaks)

Total \$465.00